IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend the paragraph [0002] through [0014] as follows:

[0002] The invention relates to a method and to a device for processing and separating an imbricate formation of flexible, flat and flexible objects, in particular, printed products~~, according to the preamble of the independent claims~~.

[0003] From the state of the art there are known various feeders and devices, specifically in order to isolate printed products or to grasp these individually and to transfer these products for further transport to a conveyor [[means]]. The disadvantages of the state of the art are due to the counter-running movement pattern, the large inertia and friction forces and the abrupt ~~direction~~ directional change. With the machines used today the operations are not flowing, but have a static component. This means that a printed product to be processed is brought completely to a standstill in order [[then]] to be then accelerated abruptly in another direction. This has a negative effect, particularly [[it]] at high processing speeds.

[0004] From CH 324210 by Müller, entitled *Anlegemaschine für die Papier industrie*, and published on 15 September 1957, there is known, for example, [[known]] a feeder machine[[.]] for the paper industry. This serves for feeding folded printed sheets onto saddles of a feeder transport belt of a binding machine. The device is based on a drum which is arranged between a stack of folded printed sheets supported on an oblique plane and a transport belt with saddles. The printed sheets are arranged standing on[[the fold]] their folds in the feed region. The drum which is arranged essentially tangentially to the frontmost printed sheet on its periphery, comprises a gripper by way of which the respective frontmost printed sheet of the ply is gripped and pulled off

at the cut-edge side. ~~The pulling-off of~~ Pulling-off the next printed sheet is only possible if the previous [[one]] sheet has been completely removed from the stack. Each printed sheet is deflected ~~bearing~~ and borne on the drum, and thrown off onto a saddle of the feed transport belt. With this device, in each case only one printed sheet is processed per operating cycle; this [[which]] results in a limitation [[of]] on the processing speed due to the basic operating principle. So that the printed sheet may be grasped, it is furthermore necessary for the drum of the gripper to carry out a counter-directed movement. With fast-running machines, this leads to high inertia forces. Due to the functioning principle on which it is based, this device is not suitable for processing large volumes, and furthermore, the separation at the cut-edge side is burdened with problems.

[0005] DE 2531262 by Güither Schick, entitled *Hochleistungsanleger für Loseblatt oder gefalzte Lagen aus Papier oder ähntich biegsamen Werkstoffen* and published on 25 January 1977, shows a feeder for sheets or folded layers of paper or similarly flexible materials. Printed sheets, in the form of an imbricate flow (leading edge at the top) are moved along an oblique plane by way of a conveyor belt. The printed sheets on a further oblique plane are piled up into an obliquely set position and brought to a standstill. The respective lowermost printed sheet of the oblique ply is grasped by way of a wheel equipped with grippers and deflected by way of a deflection roller. By way of this, the printed sheets are pulled from the obliquely set position. In contrast to the device known from Hans Müller in CH 324210, the printed sheets are not pulled off individually, but are pulled of in the form of a continuous, imbricate flow. Due to the large deflection during the step of pulling-off, the printed sheets are ~~greatly~~ excessively loaded. For isolating the printed sheets,

a suggestion has been made to arrange ~~there is suggested~~ an acceleration path ~~arranged~~ after this.

[0006] EP 1055620 by Keller *et al.*, and published on 29 November 2000, of the same applicant shows a device for accommodating and for the further transport of flat, printed products. A multitude of grippers with associated suction members are attached along a revolving wheel. The printed sheets to be processed are arranged on a stack from which they are lifted by way of the suction members and brought into the active region of the grippers. The printed sheets are gripped by the grippers and subsequently deposited in the form of an imbricate flow and conveyed away by ~~way of~~ a conveyor [[means]]. This device permits the gripping of printed sheets [[in]] within very short distances, wherein the suction heads and products are [[to be]] aligned [[to]] with one another.

[0007] EP 10[[9]]86914 entitled *DEVICE FOR TRANSPORTING FLEXIBLE AND FLAT PRODUCTS*, by Egon Hänsch, published on 28 March 2001, ~~of the same applicant~~ shows a device for the transport of flat products from a stationary stack positioned in a receiving location to a dispensing location. The device comprises a separating member, as well as a support element and a holding member which are arranged running around a shaft. The products are gripped individually, separated and transferred to a ~~means which serves for the conveying-away~~ device that serves as an exit conveyance. With this device the products are also mechanically loaded.

[0008] WO 00/46135 ~~of the same applicant~~ entitled *DEVICE FOR UNSTACKING A PILE OF FLAT OBJECTS, ESPECIALLY PRINTING PRODUCTS*, by Willy Leu, published on 10 August 2000, shows a device for reducing a stack of flat objects, in particular, printer's products. By way of a ~~lifting means~~ lift, the respective uppermost printed sheet is lifted from a stack and brought into

the active region of a conveyor belt which serves for leading away the printed sheets in the form of an imbricate flow. The device is designed such that it is ~~adapted~~ adaptable to the height of the stack. Although it is simplified in comparison to the state of the art, ~~one however~~ the device requires a control.

[0009] EP 0863099 entitled *DEVICE FOR SEPARATING PILED PRINTED PRODUCTS*, by Alex Keller, published on 9 September 1998, ~~of the same applicant~~ shows a device for isolating stacked printer's products. The printed sheets to be processed are inserted below a stack by way of [[a.]] ~~conveying means~~ conveyor. From this stack the respective uppermost printed product is gasped by a gripper and led away individually. So that the printed sheets may be gasped, they are individually lifted by way of a lifting [[means]] mechanism and brought into the active region of the gripper.

[0010] EP 0755886 entitled *DEVICE FOR FEEDING PRINTED PRODUCTS TO A FURTHER WORK STATION*, by Alex Keller, published on 29 January 1997, ~~of the same applicant~~ shows a device for feeding folded ~~printer's~~ printers' products to a location for further processing. Printed sheets supplied in an imbricate flow are led to a stacking location by way of a ~~conveying means~~ conveyor, where they are inserted below an intermediate stack. By way of a lifting member ~~moved along a circumferential path~~ (*e.g.*, a suction member) moved along a circumferential path, the respective uppermost printer's product is lifted at the [[fold]] fold's edge and brought into the active region of a ~~conveying-away device~~ conveyance. The ~~conveying-away device comprises~~ conveyance uses a segmented roller and a circumferential belt which serves for pressing the printed products onto the segmented roller. The printed sheets are lifted one after the other and

brought into the active region of the ~~conveying-away device~~ conveyance by which they are grasped and led away in the form of an imbricate flow.

[0011] DE 19627830 ~~of the same applicant~~ by Jürg Eberie, published on 6 February 1997, shows a device for feeding printed products to a ~~conveying-away device~~ conveyance. A suction member arranged [[in]] on the inside of a rotor engages through a recess ~~in order to grasp~~ when grasping a ~~printer's~~ printers' product and [[with]] draws a corner region ~~to bring this~~ into the ~~inside~~ interior of the rotor. The ~~printer's~~ printers' product is then engaged at the bottom by a rotor arm and lifted ~~further~~ farther in order to bring it into the active region of a ~~conveying-away device~~ conveyor. The printed products are conveyed away, either individually or in the form of an imbricate flow, by way of grippers.

[0012] EP 0675061 ~~of the same applicant~~ entitled "*DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUSLY FEEDING FLAT ARTICLES TO A DELIVERY POINT*", by Honegger *et al.*, published on the 10th of December 1997, shows a device for ~~the~~ an uninterrupted supply of flat products to a dispensing location. The ~~printer's~~ printers' products are led to ~~a~~ the dispensing location by way of an endless conveyor belt. At the dispensing location the conveyor belt, at least in regions, is guided around a deflection roller and ~~engages~~ extends around the deflection wheel in an undershooting manner. The conveyor belt driven by a stepper motor and a deflection wheel form a conveying gap for the products to be processed which are arranged in an imbricate formation. The respective uppermost product of a ~~part~~ partial stack is grasped by way of a suction head and lifted.

[0013] As may be deduced from the above-described documents, the devices known from the state of the art for separating ~~printer's~~ printers' products have a relatively complicated construction,

wherein the complexity is partly due to the control. Depending on the mentioned principles, the processing speed is furthermore limited so that the printed products are not excessively loaded ~~too greatly or~~ and the processing steps are effected in a reliable manner. Most known devices are based on the fact that ~~the~~ printed products ~~for~~ that require further processing need to be brought completely to a standstill so that they may be grasped by a gripper or equivalent ~~means~~ device. Inasmuch as [[a]] fluent processing is desired, in the state of the art expensive designs, ~~specifically~~ special controls, are required in order to be able to separate the printed products with [[a]] high accuracy. A further disadvantage of conventional designs for [[a]] continuous processing, *i.e.*, if the printed product is not to be brought completely to a standstill, lies in the fact that (a [[()]]limited) buffering with but short-term malfunctioning may ~~only~~ be accommodated, in indeed if at all, by complicated ~~sensories~~ sensors with control and regulation installations. For this reason as well as others, most devices envisage a "static" intermediate stack from which the printed products (that have previously been braked to a standstill or almost to a standstill) are accelerated, pulled off and isolated.

[0014] The object of the invention lies in providing a method and a device for the continuous processing of an imbricate formation of flexible flat objects, specifically printed products, in particular, and for the exact separation and transfer of individual printed products from this imbricate formation to a conveying member, which ~~demand~~ demands a comparatively low design, control and regulation expense ~~with regard to~~ relative to the technology.

2. Please amend paragraphs [0016]-[0027] as follows:

[0016] The invention is based on a flowing transformation of an imbricate formation of flexible, flat objects, in particular, folded printed sheets, by way of a guide ~~means~~ . In the following ~~one~~ detailed description, ~~only refers~~ reference is made only to printed products, wherein other flat objects may of course also be included ~~by~~ in the practice of the principles of the present invention.

[0017] The printed products to be processed are preferably supplied in the form of an imbricate flow with ~~which the~~ trailing edges, and with the fold of the folded sheets ~~their fold,~~ of the printed products or printed sheets ~~are~~ arranged at the top and ~~the subsequent~~ subsequently the printed products overlap. Such an imbricate flow is fed to the guide ~~means which~~ that serves ~~for reforming~~ to reformate the imbricate flow in angle, alignment and density ~~so that there results~~ to produce a new imbricate formation. Independently of whether the fed printed products are arranged as a stack, a ply or an imbricate flow, before separation, they are ~~transferred~~ transformed by a suitable ~~means~~ mechanism into the mentioned standardized imbricate formation according to the principles of the present invention With folded ~~printer's~~ printers' products, in contrast to the state of the art, the fold is preferably arranged at the top and the folded sheet is supported on its cut-edge side, so that the folded sheet may be grasped at the fold, either individually or in a defined number. The possible embodiments that may be constructed according to the principles of the present invention thus accordingly ~~permits~~ permit the processing of a column[[.]], a stack or other formations while using the same methods according to the principles of the present invention for separating the printed products, *i.e.*[[,]] so that the products need not necessarily be fed as [[a]] an imbricate flow. Where appropriate, thus the standing products *e.g.*, of a column, are transferred into the desired obliquely lying position, whereas with an imbricate flow, as

described above, an alignment of the[[:]] printed products is required. Folded sheets, if required are ~~previously~~ sorted in advance so ~~such~~ that they are directed with their cut-edge side orientated downward[[s]].

[0018] Embodiments ~~forms~~ of the invention shown here may have a modular construction ~~with~~ and ~~which~~ several modules may be interactively connected via standardized interfaces. A preferred form of an embodiment ~~form comprises~~ may use a take-over module, transfer module and a conveyor module arranged ~~after this~~ for removal of printed products. The take-over module serves for bringing the printed products which, where appropriate, are fed in a different form and arrangement [[[]] of imbricate[[]]] scaling, ply, pile, or stack[[)]], into a suitable, standardized initial position which is fed to the transfer module. The transfer module in particular serves for transforming the printed products by way of a guide ~~means~~ according to the principles of the present invention, into an initial position which is optimal for the removal. ~~By way of the subsequently arranged conveyor module individual~~ Individual or a defined number of separated printed products ~~are~~ may be removed and conveyed away by the subsequently arranged conveyor module. ~~With the~~ The conveyor module ~~it is~~, for example, ~~the case of~~ may be constructed as a revolving tension member or removal drum equipped with grippers.

[0019] In the transfer module the printed products are led actively or passively via a plane, that is a concavely or convexly curved or angularly bent guide surface of a guide ~~means~~. Connecting to the end region of the guide surface [[or]] of the transfer module, there is arranged a conveyor ~~means~~ which serves for removal or for ~~separating~~ separation and ~~leading away~~ conveyance of the individual printed products. The printed products are led in an imbricate formation with the trailing

edge positioned [[(]]at the top[[)]], and are directed away by, onto the guide surface ~~and guided along this~~. A preferred embodiment form ~~of~~ for a guide ~~means comprises~~ may use a guide surface ~~on whose~~ with an end ~~there is~~ arranged to provide an essentially perpendicularly projecting edge which serves ~~for the~~ to facilitate controlled retention and alignment of the elements ~~of~~ in the imbricate flow. In contrast to the devices known from the state of the art, ~~the device according to~~ an embodiment constructed according to the principles of the invention provides a device that permits a dynamic processing of the printed products. ~~At the same time one does away with~~ This implementation eliminates the basic change of direction which has a negative effect on the processing procedure ~~and~~ as well as the processing speed. The elements are processed in a fluent manner and, above all, without a disadvantageous loading of the printed products, which means that in alignment and arrangement ~~they~~ the printed products are transformed and separated in a gentle and continuous manner. Of course, embodiments of the invention may also include a passive removal, that is to say, the separation and isolation [[is]] may be effected via the transfer module itself and the separated printed sheets or groups of printed sheets ~~are~~ may be transferred to the removal unit which does not have a separating function.

[0020] Today's known functioning principles demand that the printed products ~~are~~ be transferred while supported and practically ~~in a~~ lying ~~or~~ in a flat manner. In contrast to this, the printed products with ~~the device according to the~~ an embodiment constructed according to the principles of the present invention ~~are~~ may be aligned by way of the guide ~~means such~~ so that in the transfer region of the guide surface, ~~they~~ the printed products line up and are separated in an obliquely erect, and in a largely freely accessible position[[,]]. In contrast to most solutions known from the

state of the art, this furthermore has the advantage that the separating procedure does not necessitate a complete separation of each printed product ~~having to be completely separated~~ before the separation of the next printed sheet. At the same time, with folded printed sheets, the fold is directed upwards, that is to say, away from the guide surface, so that the printed sheets may be grasped either individually or in a defined number by way~~, e. g.,~~ of a ~~gripping means may be grasped~~ gripper simply and with great accuracy. The printed products [[with]] subjected to processing amongst one another and with the guide, ~~means~~ display a favorable mutual ~~influencing~~ influence and stabilization ~~with respect to the method~~ in the practice of this process, which is of particular relevance to the procedure in the end region of the guide ~~[metal]~~ sheet.

[0021] Several printing products bearing on one another, due to their specific properties and the arrangement, specifically their flexibility and mutual displacability, in their entirety, display an elastic and flexible ~~behaviour~~ behavior. A first form of elastic ~~behaviour~~ behavior ~~is to~~ may be observed with a bundle of printed products which is placed on a plane and is held by abutments and limitations. If the limitations of the printed product bundle in the longitudinal direction are pulled apart, the angle between the printed products and the plane becomes shallower. If the limitations of the bundle are however, ~~are~~ pushed together, the angle between the plane and the printed products becomes steeper. Understood in this manner, ~~this~~ the behavior of the printed products is elastic. A further form of elastic ~~behaviour~~ behavior in particular, ~~is to~~ may be observed with an arrangement of folded printed products. On account of the fold, the individual printed products tend to curve up or to open in regions. ~~But also~~ Also, with other flexible products or printed products such flexibility is ~~given~~ attained on account of material unevenness and

~~enclosure~~ entrapment of air. This has the result that a corresponding stack or a corresponding ply of printed products may be elastically pressed together. A stack of folded newspaper sheets may, for ~~exam ple~~ example be considerably pressed together. It has been shown that in a guide ~~means~~ according to the principles of the invention, given a suitable relative arrangement and alignment of the printed products[[,]] to be aligned, this ~~behaviour~~ behavior may be used to achieve a compensation and ~~buffer~~ buffering effect. This ~~buffer~~ buffering effect, to a certain extent, acts as a dynamic intermediate storage (as a result of local compression) and geometric compensation on processing. This effect ~~here~~ is used here in a targeted manner in order to compensate for differences in the processing speed between ~~device means conveying~~ conveyance to and away, or to compensate for short-term malfunctioning.

[0022] So that the above-described effects may be exploited, the guide surface used in the guide ~~means~~ preferably has a shape which leads to a compacting of the imbricate formation of printed products guided above it, and simultaneously leads to ~~them~~ the printed products being erected, [[(]]or inclined[[)]], in a controlled manner. Guide surfaces [[which]] have a plane section which merges into an arc-shaped or straight section running obliquely downwards, are particularly suitable.

[0023] In order to separate the printed products, a limitation ~~is present~~ may be erected at the end of the guide surface, such as ~~e.g. in the form of~~ a mechanical abutment, which prevents ~~a further leading~~ farther travel of the printed products of the compacted imbricate flow along the guide surface. The printed products are dammed and aligned in a controlled manner in the active region of the mechanical abutment. ~~On~~ Upon alignment into a vertical position, due to the shifting of the

center of gravity of the printed products, the laterally acting ~~gravity~~ force of gravity is continuously reduced ~~reduces~~ so that the printed products come into an unstable equilibrium, and then have a ~~the~~ tendency to flip over. ~~Roughly at~~ At roughly this moment, the printed products ~~then they~~ come into the active region of the conveyer ~~means~~, which grips ~~them~~ the printed products and leads them away individually. With alternative ~~embodiment forms here~~ embodiments, there may be included a special separating device which transfers the printed sheets to a subsequent conveyor module.

[0024] In order to support the isolation of the printed products, in certain cases it is useful to provide a ~~means for the active changing of~~ mechanism to actively change the inclination of the printed products in order to feed the printed products to the conveyor ~~means~~ in a controlled manner at the moment at which the printed products ~~they~~ tend to tip over. With this, it may be the case for example, of a rotating[[,]] plane or structurized roller or a revolving cam belt, by way of which the printed products are influenced by friction, or by a positive or non-positive fit. According to the field of application, rollers equipped with either suction elements or wing compartment wheels which engage between the printed products and thus feed the printed products ~~these~~ dynamically to the ~~conveying means~~ conveyor are also suitable. A controlled flow of air is likewise suitable ~~which~~ because the flow acts on the printed products from the ~~side~~ inside or from above. A further form ~~of a means~~ for supporting this peeling-off or tipping procedure, here called folding-over or ~~separating means comprises~~ separation, may use a lever ~~on whose~~ with one end ~~there is~~ attached to a suction cup. The lever is rotatably mounted about a pivot pin, wherein the fulcrum of the pivot pin is arranged on the region of the mechanical abutment at the end of the guide surface. The respective frontmost printed product which prevails at the mechanical abutment (*i.e.*, the brim),

is pressed against the lever or suction cup. In order to transfer this first printed product then to the conveyor ~~means~~, the lever, and with it, the printed product held by the suction cup, is tilted in a relatively rapid manner so that the product is tilted relatively quickly ~~so that~~ and the printed product stands freely and may be grasped by the conveyor ~~means~~. The remaining printed products remain standing as a result of their inertia or, alternatively, they may be held by mechanical abutments. It is possible without further ~~ado~~ effort to also effect the removal or ~~the conveying-away by way of~~ conveyance away with revolving roller pairs, conveyor belts or alternative conveyor means.

[0025] The distance between the guide surface and the conveyor ~~means~~, or the folding-over ~~means~~ device, is preferably adjustable so that the device is suitable for processing printed products ~~of~~ with a variable format. A further advantage of the invention lies in the fact that at the location of the separation, and when required, ~~one may provide~~ a points ~~[switch]~~ or switch system may be used so that the printed sheets ~~directly after the transfer module~~ may be transferred directly from the transfer module to various conveyors or may be removed ~~by these~~.

[0026] The device, particularly on the guide surface, may ~~comprise~~ be constructed with an additional active mechanism that serves to control ~~means which serve the control of~~ the flow, the density and the shape of the imbricate flow. ~~With these~~ These ~~guide~~ guides, ~~means it is the case,~~ for example, ~~of~~ with one or more revolving guiding belts [[(]] such as, conveyor belts[[)]] ~~which~~ act by way of friction ~~act~~ on the flow ~~behaviour~~ behavior and folding-over of the printed products. The ~~guide means are~~ guides may be arranged along the whole guide surface or alternatively, only in sections. According to requirement, the guides ~~they~~ have either the same or different conveying

speeds and are directed equally or counter to one another. The[[,]] oblique position of the printed products is suitable in order to obtain a buffer and compensation effect, which, for example, serves ~~for compensating~~ to compensate for fluctuations in the processing speed.

[0027] In particular, ~~in the~~ a stabilizer may be incorporated into a region of the guide surface or of the guide ~~means one may provide stabilizing means which on~~ that upon starting the device, or in the case of a disturbance, will stop or "freeze" the dynamic process. With these, ~~means~~ it is the case preferably of a gripper, lever or flaps which when required engage ~~into~~ the flow of printed products to be processed and support and stabilize ~~these~~ the printed products in angle and alignment. These ~~stabilizing means~~ stabilizers may be arranged to be movable so that at least for a certain stretch, they may be ~~co-moved~~ concurrently moved with the flow of the printed products. Telescopically extendable flaps or rods are particularly suitable for starting and stopping the processing procedure. ~~The stabilizing means~~ These stabilizers may form a part of the device or be arranged separately.

3. Please amend paragraphs [0029]-[0041] as follows:

[0029] Fig. 1 is an elevational view that illustrates a first embodiment ~~form~~ of a transfer device with a convex guide surface;

[0030] Fig. 2 is an oblique view that illustrates a second embodiment ~~form~~ of a transfer device with conveyor belts;

[0031] Fig. 3 is an elevational view that illustrates the embodiment ~~form according to~~ of Figure 2 ~~in a lateral view~~;

[0032] Fig. 4 is an elevational view that illustrates a third embodiment ~~form~~ of a transfer device constructed with essentially straight sections;

[0033] Fig. 5 is an elevational view that illustrates a fourth embodiment ~~form~~ of a transfer device constructed with a convex guide surface; and

[0034] Fig. 6 is an oblique view that illustrates a further embodiment ~~form with~~ constructed to provide a transverse displacement of the printed sheets directly before removal.

[0035] Turning now to the drawings, Figure 1 shows in a lateral view, a first embodiment ~~form~~ of a guide ~~means~~ 1 constructed according to the principles of the present invention ~~in a lateral view~~. On a convexly curved guide surface 2, printed products 10 are arranged in an imbricate formation 13 and are led in the ~~arrow~~ direction of arrow P towards an edge ~~(brim)~~ or brim 3 which is arranged at the end of ~~the~~ guide surface 2 and which serves as a mechanical abutment for ~~the~~ printed products 10. ~~The printed~~ Printed products 10 lie with their cut-edge side 12 on ~~the~~ guide surface 2, wherein ~~the~~ fold 11 of ~~the~~ printed products 10 points upwards. ~~Printed~~ Those printed products which are distanced ~~far~~ farther from ~~the~~ brim 3, are located in an imbricate arrangement with which ~~the~~ fold 11 runs subsequent to (*i.e.*, trails) the cut-edge side 12. Printed products 10 which are located nearer the brim 3, in contrast are steeper, that is, they are set standing obliquely and more closely to parallel. In contrast to the devices known from the state of the art, the transformation is effected in a fluent manner and is primarily effected by the interaction of the printed products amongst one another, and in particular, by the geometry of ~~the~~ guide ~~means~~ 1. With this, ~~the~~ printed products 10 are fed to ~~the~~ guide ~~means~~ 1 by way of ~~a variously designable~~ various designs of product feed 14 according to the state of the art shown only schematically here,

e.g., a conveyor ~~belt~~ belt. Guide surface 2 may be constructed from sheet metal.

[0036] ~~The printed~~ Printed products 10 are moved forward in the context of the imbricate formation 13 along ~~the~~ guide surface 2 as a result of the ~~force~~ effect of the force exerted by subsequent printed products and ~~the~~ their inclination. Alternatively, or supplementary to this, ~~one uses~~ an active ~~means~~ device (which is not shown in more detail in this figure) may be added to guide 1, such as, by way of example, ~~in particular~~ additional conveyor belts. ~~The guide~~ Guide surface 2 and ~~the~~ brim 3 influence the shape of the imbricate flow and the alignment of ~~the~~ printed products 10 in a targeted manner and in a manner such that ~~the~~ printed products 10 at the end of ~~the~~ guide surface 2 in the region of ~~the~~ brim 3 assume an optimal alignment for gripping, here by way of gripper 8 fastened ~~on~~ upon a revolving tension element 9[[,]]. ~~The brim~~ Brim 3 dams the flow of ~~the~~ imbricate formation 13, by which ~~means the~~ printed products 10 run onto one another in a controlled manner and are aligned as a result of the specific shape of ~~the~~ guide surface 2. The curvature, and in particular the inclination of ~~the~~ guide surface 2, are designed such that ~~one achieves~~ a controlled ~~erecting~~ erection of ~~the~~ printed products 10 is achieved. A further advantage of the ~~curved~~ curvature of guide ~~sheet [metal]~~ surface 2 lies in the fact that the ~~fold~~ folded edges of the printed sheets, where appropriate with guide 1 ~~means~~ engaging ~~on~~ the ~~fold~~ folded side, may be made almost straight. This ~~in particular~~ particularly simplifies the arrangement and design of the ~~means~~ mechanism 5 for separating the printed sheets. According to the principles of this invention, ~~the~~ guide surface 2 accordingly at least in some regions, is inclined with respect to the horizontal so that ~~the~~ printed products 10 in the conveying direction are subjected to a certain wedge effect and thus "compression" of the product flow. This inclination of ~~the~~ guide surface

2 ~~with~~ in a preferred embodiment ~~forms~~ is inclined at least partly more than 30° with respect to the horizontal so that the desired ~~aligning procedure~~ alignment of the printed products is effected. In the direct vicinity of ~~the~~ brim 3, ~~the~~ printed products 10 are located with the fold upward (that is, in z-direction) in an essentially perpendicular ~~position~~ orientation from which either individually or in a defined number, ~~they~~ printed products 10 are transferred to ~~the~~ conveyor 9 ~~means~~, here ~~the~~ by grippers 8, for transfer elsewhere ~~leading away~~.

[0037] Above ~~the~~ edge 3 ~~one may recognize~~ folding-over mechanism ~~means~~ 5 ~~which~~ serves ~~for the controlled~~ to control folding-over of ~~the~~ printed products 10. With the folding-over ~~means~~ mechanism 5, it is the case here of a winged wheel 6 rotating about an axis A that is [[(]]perpendicular to the plane of the drawing[[)]]equipped with a plurality of radial, ~~with~~ arms 7. The outwardly extending radial arms 7, as a result of the rotation of ~~the~~ winged wheel 6, ~~engage~~ reach inwardly between ~~the~~ printed products 10 located at the end of the guide surface and have the effect that ~~these~~ the printed products thus engaged are released or peeled away in a controlled manner and are separated, or isolated, from one another in the region of the fold. ~~The printed~~ Printed products 10 are separated from one another in the region of the fold 11 either individually or in a defined number, and are titled and brought into the active region of grippers 8, and are then gripped by one of ~~these~~ the succession of grippers 8 and subsequently conveyed away from guide 2. It may be easily recognized in Figure 1 that the folding-over ~~means effects or supports~~ effect a peeling away and subsequent "tipping-over" of the respective endmost printed product 10. According to the invention, the printed sheets on removal by way of ~~the~~ folding-over ~~means~~ mechanism 5 are actively transferred into an obliquely standing position in the ~~conveyor~~ direction

of conveyor 9. Although the procedure described here effects an optimal removal, with other ~~embodiment forms~~ embodiments by way of ~~the~~ folding-over ~~means~~ mechanism 5 there may be effected a mere lifting for removal of printed products 10, so that the term "folding-over mechanism ~~means~~" is not to be understood in a limiting manner and this may also be ~~described~~ understood as describing as a separating mechanism ~~means~~.

[0038] The distance D between the floor of guide surface 2 and the axis A of the axle of folding-over ~~means~~ mechanism 5 or ~~the~~ gripper 8 may be adjusted so that ~~one may~~ the embodiment may be used to process ~~differently large~~ different sizes of elements. At the same time, the guide surface may be inclined differently or displaced, or alternatively, ~~the~~ folding-over ~~means~~ mechanism 5 and ~~the removal means 8, 9~~ gripper 8 and conveyor 9 may also be arranged to be movable. With special embodiments ~~embodiment forms~~, the adaptation to various formats may also be envisaged by ~~sensories~~ sensors with [[a]] suitable control and regulation which accordingly automatically adjust the control elements to regulate the [[(]]position and ~~acting~~ forces of ~~the~~ folding-over mechanism 5 and removal conveyor 5 ~~means, removal means etc.)~~.

[0039] Figure 2 shows a lateral section of a second embodiment ~~form~~ of a transfer device constructed with [[a]] guide ~~means~~ 1~~, in a lateral section~~. Conveyor belts 15 are arranged along the guide surface parallel to the ~~flow~~ direction of flow B of an imbricate formation (not shown here), and serve as guiding elements, for the targeted acceleration or braking, in sections, of ~~the~~ printed products 10 located on ~~the~~ guide surface 2. The alignment and the flow ~~behaviour~~ behavior of die printed products are influenced in a targeted manner by way of this. According to the field of application, ~~the~~ conveyor belts 15 are supported by air (*e.g.*, either fanning-open by

pressure or alternatively, retention by vacuum). ~~The conveyor~~ Conveyor belts 15, when required, may furthermore be driven in the same or in opposite directions.

[0040] ~~The guide means~~ Guide 1, where appropriate, may be a changeable geometry, which at least in regions along guide surface 2 permits a targeted setting of the curvature of ~~the~~ guide surface 2. Guide ~~means~~ 1 may thus be adjusted to different printed products. By way of changing the curvature, one influences the inclination, but also friction forces and thus the flow and damming behavior. A preferred embodiment ~~form comprises~~ may be constructed with a guide ~~means~~ manufactured of sheet metal, which is [[(]]elastically[[)]] deformed by a bending device, *e.g.*, by way of an adjusting screw or hydraulics.

[0041] Figure 3, by way of arrows 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, schematically shows the influence of three conveyor belts 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 on ~~the~~ printed products 10 of ~~the~~ imbricate formation 13. The length of the arrows 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, by way of example, illustrate the speed of ~~the~~ conveyor belts 15. As the arrows 16.1, 16.2 illustrate the conveyor belts 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 here are driven in the flow direction of ~~the~~ imbricate formation 13, wherein ~~the~~ second conveyor belt 15.2 has a higher speed 16.2 than the two other conveyor belts 15.1 and 15.3. By way of this, it is achieved that ~~the~~ printed products 10 in this region are accelerated at the cut-edge side in the direction of ~~the~~ brim 3. After ~~the~~ printed products 10 have left the active region of ~~the~~ second conveyor belt 15.2, they get into the active region of ~~the~~ third conveyor belt 15.3 where the printed product are braked at ~~the~~ their cut-edge side. By way of this procedure, it is achieved that the printed products 10 are erected in a controlled manner. Other embodiment forms and drive concepts are also possible according to requirement. The conveyor belts 15 may be driven differently or regulated or

controlled and different friction forces with respect to the conveyor belts 15 or guide sheet [metal] 2 may additionally influence the product flow.

4. Please amend paragraph [0043] as follows:

[0043] These conveyor [[bolts]] belts 15.1 to 15.3 support the procedure already described by way of Figure 1, with which the printed products 10 on supply to the guide surface 2 of the guide means 1 are conveyed lying in an overlapping manner, wherein the trailing edge of a printed product in each case lies over the leading edge of the subsequent printed product. During the transport over the guide surface 2, the printed sheets 10 are continuously erected so that on removal from the guide means 1 they have an obliquely standing position, with which the printed products are inclined slightly opposite to the conveying direction,